

Message Text

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15

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-25 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 SAB-01 AID-20 OMB-01 DRC-01 /154 W

----- 048139

R 310515Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC1872

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 1016

BEIRUT ALSO PASS BAGHDAD; KUWAIT ALSO PASS DOHA AND MUSCAT

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR TC IZ

SUBJECT: ZAID VISIT TO IRAQ

1. IN IMMEDIATE AFTERGLOW OF UAE-SAPDI AGREEMENT, SHIKH ZAYID DEPARTED YESTERDAY, MINUTES AFTER SEEING HIS SAUDI GUESTS OFF, FOR THREE-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO IRAQ. HE TOOK MOST OF GOVERNMENT WITH HIM, INCLUDING FONMIN SUWAIDI, MINPET OTAIBA, MIN INT MUBARAK, AND THE UBIQUITOUS MAHDI TAJIR. FOLLOWING IRAQ, ZAID IS SCHEDULED VISIT TUNIS (AUG 1-6), ARRIVE LIBYA (AUG 6), ALGIERS (AUG 7), AND RABAT AUG 10. SOMEWHERE IN THIS ITINERARY HE IS NOW EXPECTED TO MAKE QUICK TRIP TO SAUDI ARABIA TO SIGN AGREEMENT WHICH WAS INITIALED YESTERDAY. DATE OF AUGUST 6 HAS BEEN MENTIONED WITH COMMENT BY ANOTHER SOURCE THAT THIS
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WOULD PROVIDE ZAYID WITHEXCUSE TO CANCEL LIBYAN VISIT WHICH

HE DOESN'T WANT TO MAKE ANYWAY.

2. NORTH AFRICAN TOUR IS IN RESPONSE TO LONG-STANDING INVITATIONS FROM THESE COUNTRIES AND IS VIEWED HERE AS POLITICALLY ROUTINE EVENT, ALTHOUGH UAE FINANCE AND BUDGET MEN ARE IN STATE OF NERVOUS APPREHENSION AT AMOUNTS OF MONEY SHAIKH ZAYID MAY MANAGE TO GIVE AWAY. IRAQ VISIT HAS STIRRED MORE INTEREST AND SOME CONCERN LOCALLY. WE HAVE RECEIVED

TWO DIFFERING RATIONALES FOR VISIT FROM UAE OFFICIALS.

ONE IS TO EFFECT THAT SHAIKH ZAYID DIDN'T WANT TO GO TO IRAQ BUT PERSISTENCE OF IRAQI INVITATIONS HAD BEGUN TO EMBARRASS HIM AND HE FELT OBLIGED TO GO. OTHER EXPLANATION, WHICH WE THINK IS CLOSER TO TRUTH AS FAR AS ZAYID'S THINKING IS CONCERNED, IS THAT ZAYID RECOGNIZES IRAQ AS GULF POWER AND PREFERS TO BE IN COMMUNICATION WITH IT. THERE IS NEVERTHELESS SOME CONCERN AMONG DIPLOMATS HERE THAT WITH ZAYID'S INCLINATION TO RESPOND TO FLATTERY AND PLEASE HIS HOSTS, HE MIGHT BE INDUCED TO SAY SOMETHING THAT WOULD CAUSE PAIN IN TEHRAN, OR TO TAKE EXTREMIST POSITION ON ARAB-ISRAEL PROBLEM. BRITISH AMB THEREFORE PLEASED THAT FONMIN SUWAIDI AND MAHDI TAJIR, BOTH OF WHOM HE CONSIDERS MODERATE AND HARDHEADED ON POLITICAL MATTERS, ARE ACCOMPANYING ZAYID.

3. ALSO POSSIBLE THAT SOVIETS MAY TRY TO GET TO ZAYID THROUGH HIS IRAQI HOSTS DURING VISIT. SOME TIME AGO IN WEAK MOMENT (AND WITHOUT HIS ADVISORS AROUND HIM) ZAYID TOLD SOVIETS HE WOULD OPEN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THEM. SINCE THEN HE AND HIS ADVISORS HAVE FOBBED THEM OFF WITH EXCUSES, BUT SOVS HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN PRESSING HIM TO MAKE GOOD ON PROMISE.

MOST OBSERVERS HERE BELIEVE ZAYID IS PERSUADED TO SAUDI OPINION THAT IT IS NOT IN LONG-TERM INTEREST OF UAE TO BLOCK UAE-SOVIET RELATIONS INDEFINITELY. IN ONE SENSE, UAE-SAUDI AGREEMENT MIGHT MAKE ZAYID FEEL THAT WITH SOURCE OF INSTABILITY REPRESENTED BY UNRESOLVED UAE-SAUDI DIFFERENCES REMOVED HE CAN NOW AFFORD TO OPEN RELATIONS WITH SOVS. ON OTHER HAND, HE WOULD HAVE TO FIGURE SUCH MOVE WOULD BE DISPLEASING TO SAUDIS, AND GET NEWFOUNDED UAE-SAUDI RELATIONS OFF TO POOR START. ON WHOLE WE BELIEVE LATTER CONSIDERATION WILL PREVAIL, AT LEAST FOR TIME BEING.

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